



Sister Mary Owens and some of the program's children at an annual children's festival. Photo credit: COGRI

KENYA

CHILDREN OF GOD RELIEF INSTITUTE

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, USAID supports orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. Interventions emphasize family-centered, socio-economic services that meet children's most critical needs by involving the public and private sectors in implementing creative and sustainable interventions. The Children of God Relief Institute (COGRI) runs the Lea Toto community-based project in Nairobi County and the Nyumbani Village program in Kitui County. Both activities offer support for orphans and vulnerable children, as well as HIV care and treatment services for children.

COGRI is one of the few programs in Kenya that solely implements specialized HIV services for children under 15 years old and adolescents between 15 and 19 years old. It was the first program to provide HIV treatment to pediatric patients. Due to the threat posed by COVID-19 for people living with HIV, COGRI realigned its activities and services to conform to the national guidelines on infection prevention and control. To help achieve self-reliance, household economic livelihood initiatives have been strengthened and youths linked to adult clinics and agribusiness initiatives in Nyumbani Village, in collaboration with the county governments and other local partners.

LEA TOTO PROJECT

The Lea Toto (“raise a child” in Kiswahili) program was initiated in 1998 as a community-based activity allowing orphaned children to remain with their caregivers in their communities. Lea Toto provides services to families with HIV-positive children in the main informal settlements of Nairobi and its environs. This activity first received funding from USAID in 1999 and has grown from its first location in Kangemi to cover eight informal settlement areas: Kawangware, Kibera, Kariobangi, Dandora, Zimmerman, Dagoretti, and Mukuru. The program provides quality medical care, nutritional support, and counseling services for over 3,500 HIV-positive children on antiretroviral therapy, with over 90 percent viral suppression. It served 99 percent of the over 14,000 orphans and vulnerable children in 2020 alone.

NYUMBANI VILLAGE

Nyumbani means “home” in Kiswahili. Nyumbani Village is a simulated village that started in 2003 and first received USAID funding in 2006. It admits children who have been infected or affected by HIV and have lost both parents. The project uses elderly caregivers who have lost their biological children to care for the village children in a home setting. Nyumbani Village meets a special need for orphans who lack community support networks, without institutionalizing them into traditional orphanages. Under the stewardship of elderly adults, Nyumbani Village provides a family setting for the children and ensures access to health care and education services both inside and outside the village. Nyumbani Village also provides HIV outreach activities such as testing and HIV care and treatment to the surrounding communities.

NYUMBANI CHILDREN'S HOME

The Nyumbani Children's Home, which is in the Karen neighborhood of Nairobi, provides care and treatment for HIV-positive children aged 0-23. They live at the home until they are healthy and self-reliant. The home includes six cottages and a respite care center, a medical clinic, pharmacy, youth center, community center, playground, library, computer center, kitchen farm, water supply, and greenhouse.

NYUMBANI DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

The Nyumbani Diagnostic Laboratory is an accredited laboratory registered by the Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists Board as a diagnostic and research laboratory. It was founded in 1998 in support of the Nyumbani Children's Home and the public. In 2011, a new state-of-the-art laboratory was opened, which facilitated the transition from manual to automation for most of the services offered. These include, but are not limited to, immunology and hematology testing, microbiology and parasitology, serology and endocrinology, clinical chemistry and special chemistry, HIV drug resistance genotyping, HIV viral load and HIV screening, TB GeneXpert testing, and histopathology and cytology.

BUDGET: USD \$29 million

DURATION

2013-2024

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Nairobi and Kitui Counties

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Children of God Relief Institute

KEY PARTNERS

Government of Kenya, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, Medicines for Humanity, KEST Group, Kenya Orphan Aid, Hotcourses Foundation, Compassion International

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